

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4715

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: LABOR LEADS MOVEMENT FOR POLITICAL RESTRUCTURING

1. ORGANIZED LABOR LEADERSHIP WITH SUPPORT OF ANTI-LOPEZ REGA SECTOR OF PERONIST POLITICAL WING HAS TAKEN LEAD IN PRESSURING FOR COMPLETE RESTRUCTURING OF JUSTICIALIST PARTY AND PERONIST MOVEMENT. FIRST VICTIM OF THIS DRIVE LIKELY TO BE RAUL LASTIRI AND REMAINING LOPEZ REGA SUPPORTERS IN CONGRESS.

2. IN JULY 14 MEETING CGT AND 62 ORGANIZATIONS LEADERSHIP REACHED AGREEMENT THAT SOLUTION TO CURRENT NATIONAL CRISIS REQUIRED "COMPLETE RESTRUCTURING OF COUNTRY'S POLITICAL AND SOCIAL FORCES," INCLUDING REESTABLISHMENT OF CONSENSUS POLITICS WITH FULL PARTICIPATION OF OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES, BUSINESS SECTOR AND ARMED FORCES. REPORTEDLY, LABOR LEADERS FORESEE POSSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY, INCLUDING COALITION CABINET, IN WHICH LABOR WOULD PLAY PRE-EMINENT ROLE.

3. FOLLOWING LABOR MEETING, CASILDO HERRERAS AND LORENZO MIGUEL MET WITH PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER AND PARTY VICE PRESIDENT, LASTIRI, TO ADVISE HIM OF LABOR'S DEMAND FOR RAPID
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RESTRUCTURING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE JUSTICIALIST

PARTY AND PERONIST MOVEMENT, TO INCLUDE ELECTION OF NEW OFFICIALS. CHANGE AND REVITALIZATION OF PARTY IS DEEMED FIRST IMPORTANT STEP TO REESTABLISHMENT OF CONSENSUS POLITICS. THEY ALSO STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE RODRIGO ECONOMIC AUSTERITY PLAN.

4. LABOR LEADERSHIP MEETING AGAIN JULY 15 TO CONSIDER LASTIRI'S RESPONSE. ALTHOUGH LASTIRI'S COUNTERPROPOSALS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC, ONE RELIABLE SOURCE ADVISED EMBOFFS THAT HIS ATTITUDE WAS NOT CONCILIATORY. IN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO ANTICIPATED LOANS FROM US BANKS, LASTIRI REPORTEDLY TOLD LABOR LEADERS THEY SHOULD TREAD SOFTLY AS GOA WILL VERY SHORTLY HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO RIDE OUT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS.

5. COMMENT. LABOR WILL UNDOUBTEDLY OBTAIN ITS OBJECTIVE TO RESTRUCTURE THE JUSTICIALIST PARTY, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT IT WILL ALSO OBTAIN THE PREEMINENCE IN IT WHICH LABOR APPARENTLY IS SEEKING. LABOR LEADERSHIP ITSELF IS SERIOUSLY DIVIDED FOLLOWING RECENT POWER PLAY AGAINST PRESIDENT PERON, AND THOSE DIVISIONS WILL LIMIT ITS ABILITY TO OBTAIN PARTY HEGEMONY. MOREOVER, OTHER SECTORS HAVING SUFFERED LONG UNDER LOPEZ REGA'S HEAVY HAND NOT ANXIOUS TO FALL UNDER LABOR'S DOMINATION. MOST DISTURBING ASPECT FROM US VIEWPOINT IS FACT LASTIRI HAS INTERJECTED POSSIBLE LOANS BY US BANKS INTO DOMESTIC POLITICS.
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